

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

and

SIERRA CLUB,

Intervenor-Plaintiff,

v.

DTE ENERGY COMPANY AND
DETROIT EDISON COMPANY,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.
2:10-cv-13101-BAF-RSW

Judge Bernard A. Friedman

Magistrate Judge R. Steven
Whalen

**JOINT MOTION AND BRIEF FOR FURTHER STAY PENDING
SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS,
AND STATUS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS**

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1(a), the Parties jointly move for a six-month stay of this case while they continue to engage in settlement negotiations seeking to resolve this case in its entirety. All Parties—Plaintiff United States of America (“United States”), Defendants DTE Energy Company and Detroit Edison Company (collectively, “DTE”), and Plaintiff-Intervenor Sierra Club—join in this motion.

This joint filing also serves as the United States’ and DTE’s status report on negotiations, as required by the Court’s order granting the initial stay [ECF No. 239].

In further support of this motion, the Parties state the following:

1. This litigation began in 2010 when the United States filed its complaint and motion for preliminary injunction. On November 23, 2010, Sierra Club's motion to intervene as a plaintiff in this proceeding was granted. The litigation has been to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit twice. The Court granted summary judgment for a second time to DTE on the claim in the original complaint on March 3, 2014 [ECF No. 196], and Plaintiffs again appealed to the Sixth Circuit (ECF Nos. 221, 222). By judgment dated January 10, 2017, the Sixth Circuit reversed and remanded in a 2-1 decision with three separate opinions. [Case nos. 14-2274, 14-2275, Doc. 40-2]. DTE timely filed a petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court, which was denied by order dated December 11, 2017 [*see* ECF No. 235]. The Sixth Circuit's mandate was issued on December 14, 2017, and was received by the clerk of this Court on the same day [ECF No. 236].

2. On February 2, 2018, the Court granted the United States' and DTE's joint motion for a stay of the litigation through June 4, 2018 [ECF No. 239]. Since that time, the United States and DTE have engaged in productive settlement discussions and believe further discussions would be fruitful.

3. In seeking the original stay, the United States and DTE agreed with Sierra Club that if a further stay was sought, Sierra Club would be included as a

full participant in the settlement negotiations during that stay. If the Court grants this motion, the Parties will conduct settlement negotiations with all three Parties going forward.

4. While there are many issues yet to be resolved in negotiations, the Parties are hopeful that it is possible to reach a settlement that would resolve all the claims before the Court. The Parties further believe that the continuing expense and uncertainty of this expansive litigation favors exploring whether a resolution by agreement can be reached before the parties re-engage in full-blown discovery and trial preparation on multiple, complex claims. Both judicial efficiency and conservation of the parties' resources favor a further stay while these settlement negotiations are pursued.

5. Therefore, the Parties respectfully request that the Court extend the stay of this litigation through December 11, 2018. The Parties propose that at that time they would provide the Court a status report on negotiations and a recommendation for next steps.

BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF MOTION

For their Brief in Support of their Joint Motion for Stay Pending Settlement Negotiations, the parties rely upon the reasons and authority set forth in the Motion.

Respectfully submitted, this the 11th day of June 2018.

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